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Comments regarding SB 1246

- Our 3.2 kW tracking solar photovoltaic array produced 5433 kWh in its first year, and during just under two years of operation, our array has sent over three megawatthours to the grid, most of it during periods of peak electrical demand. We have demonstrated solar generation's viability in Michigan.
- Barriers to easy and financially viable grid connection are barriers to new business and manufacturing in Michigan. New Jersey eliminated all barriers that did not serve their overall goal of attracting distributed generation to their state. New Jersey's solar energy capacity as of September 2007 is 41,638 kW. Currently Michigan's installed solar capacity is only 600 kW.

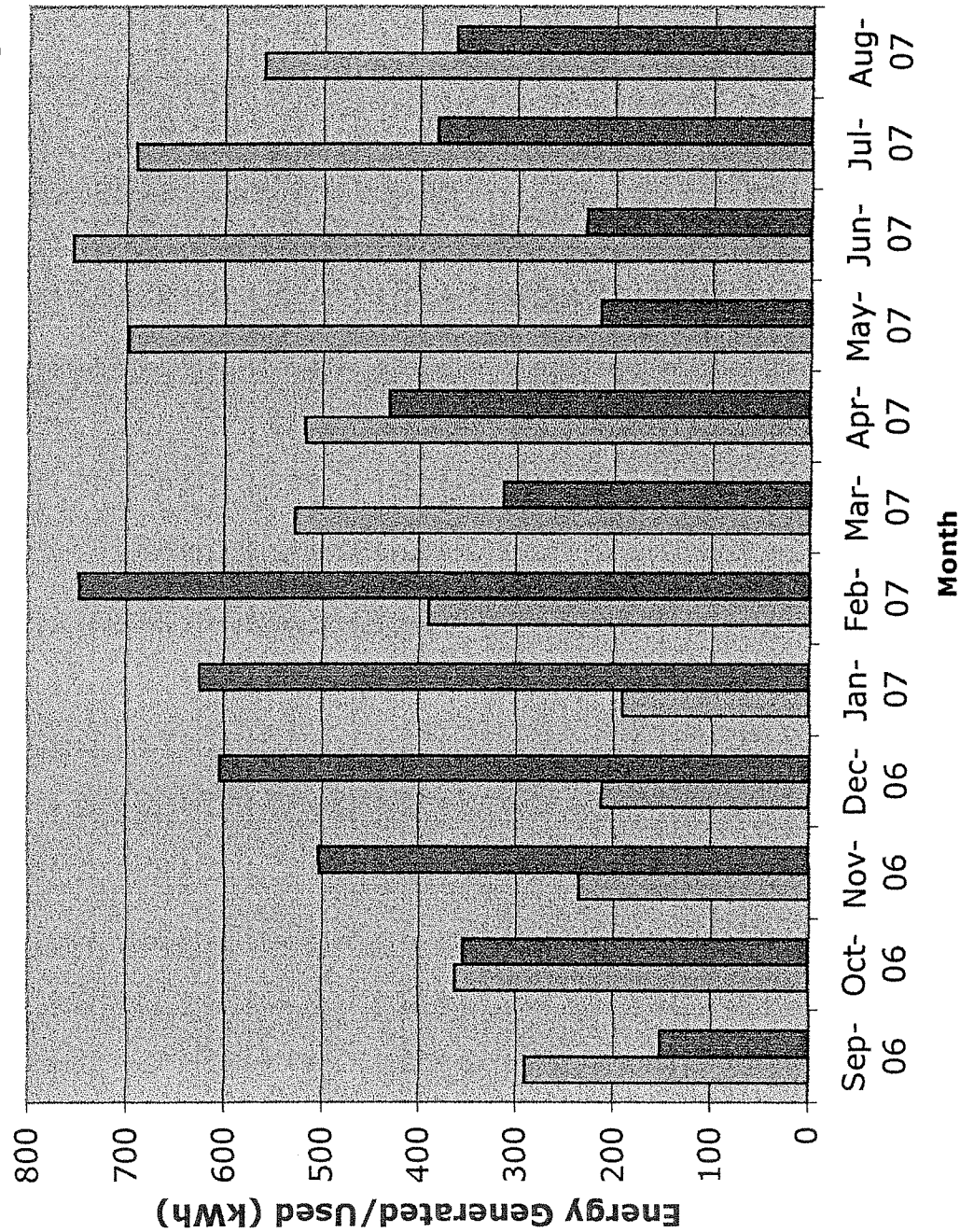
Michigan law should encourage residents and business alike to connect to the grid to provide themselves and the citizens of Michigan clean, renewable energy especially at times of peak demand.

To do so, any net metering policy should include the following provisions.

- A single bidirectional meter should be allowed, as SB 1246 currently states.
- Maximum system size should be set at 2 megawatts or greater (rather than the 550 kW currently in the bill), and all customer classes should be allowed. New Jersey has set a 2 MW limit and is currently viewed as the national leader in net metering.
- The total capacity of net-metered systems should be unlimited, as New Jersey has done, rather than setting an artificial and arbitrary limit of 2% of the utility's peak demand.
- As is currently written in SB 1246, any generation in excess of demand should be credited to the next month's bill, but in addition, customers should be reimbursed for any annual net excess generation at retail rates, or minimally at the utilities' avoided cost rate.

More information on what the other states are doing in regards to net metering and interconnection, and why Michigan has received a grade of "D" for net metering is available at http://www.newenergychoices.org/uploads/FreeingTheGrid2007_report.pdf

Monthly Electrical Energy Generated by PV Array and Electrical Energy Used by House (yearly 5432.8 kWh generated, 4922.8 kWh used)



Energy Generated (kWh)
Energy Used by House (kWh)

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3.2 kW
solar tracking PV array
all data available at
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